

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for setting a parameter ~~for external operating units~~ of a welding apparatus, ~~wherein a set of welding parameters are selectable and settable using different operating elements and display elements provided on the welding apparatus,~~ the method comprising the following steps:

invoking a control program in ~~said~~ the welding apparatus which occurs by renewed activation of at least one external operating unit on at least one external component comprising at least one of a welding torch or a robot control, wherein said at least one external operating unit is in communication with the welding apparatus;

selectively allocating a selected welding parameter for setting or adjustment to ~~an~~ said at least one external operating

unit provided on ~~an~~ said at least one external component, wherein allocating the selected welding parameter includes storing the welding parameter by using a control or evaluation device;

setting or changing said selected welding parameter, based upon activation or adjustment of ~~the~~ said at least one external operating unit provided on ~~the~~ said at least one external component;

evaluating any signals received from ~~the~~ said at least one external operating ~~units~~ unit of ~~the~~ said at least one external ~~components~~ component, by using said control or evaluation device of the welding apparatus;

allocating said signals to at least one ~~respective one of said set of welding parameters,~~ and then adjusting said at least one welding parameter based upon said signals received from said at least one external operating unit of said at least one external component; and

selectively allocating said at least one adjusted welding parameter to said at least one external operating unit provided on said at least one external component wherein a set of welding parameters are selectable and settable via said at least one

operating element or via display elements provided on the welding apparatus.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method as in claim 7, wherein said step of selectively allocating said selected welding parameter includes selectively allocating a plurality of welding parameters to several external operating units provided on said at least one external component.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of transmitting any changes of said at least one ~~the~~ external operating unit ~~units~~ to the welding apparatus.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method as in claim 9, wherein said step of allocating a plurality of welding parameters includes invoking said control program a plurality of times in a row to allocate a plurality of welding parameters to said several ~~a plurality of~~ external operating units.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as in claim 7, further comprising the step of displaying at least one welding parameter on at least one of said at least one external operating unit units.

Claim 15 (New): The process as in claim 7, further comprising the step of adjusting additional welding parameters based upon said adjustment of welding parameters in response to said signals received by said at least one external operating unit.

Claim 16 (New): The process as in claim 7, further comprising the step of providing said at least one external component in the form of a welding torch having at least one control for allowing a user to adjust a welding parameter.

Claim 17 (New): A process for controlling a welding torch comprising:

a) providing a welding apparatus having a central control having a memory with a plurality of welding parameters stored in said memory;

b) providing an operating unit coupled to the welding torch, said operating unit being in communication with said central control, said operating unit for storing at least one of said welding parameters;

c) providing at least one sensor in communication with said central control, said sensor for sending signals to said central control on said welding apparatus;

d) selectively updating said welding parameters based upon said signals received from said sensor;

e) providing at least one remote control coupled to the welding torch, said at least one remote control for manually updating at least one welding parameter; and

f) displaying on a display disposed adjacent to the welding torch at least one of said plurality of welding parameters.

Claim 18 (New): A method for setting a parameter of a welding apparatus, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a control or evaluation device associated with the welding apparatus in a housing;

selectively allocating at least one selected welding parameter to a first external operating unit provided on a first external component, which is external from said housing;

evaluating signals received from said first external operating unit of said first external component, by using said control or evaluation device of the welding apparatus;

allocating said signals to at least one welding parameter and then adjusting said at least one welding parameter based upon said signals received from said first external operating unit of said first external component; and

selectively allocating said at least one adjusted welding parameter to said first external operating unit provided on said first external component, wherein said first external operating unit communicates information relating to welding parameters in at least a bi-directional manner with said control or evaluation device.

19. (New) The process as in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

selectively allocating at least one selected welding parameter to a second external operating unit provided on a second external component;

evaluating signals received from said second external operating unit of said second external component, by using said control or evaluation device of the welding apparatus;

allocating said signals to at least one welding parameter and then adjusting said at least one welding parameter based upon said signals received from said second external operating unit of said second external component; and

selectively allocating said at least one adjusted welding parameter to said second external operating unit provided on said second external component, wherein said second external operating unit communicates information relating to welding parameters in at least a bi-directional manner with said control or evaluation device in the welding unit.

20. (New) The process as in claim 18 wherein said first external component is in the form of a welding torch.